

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 11 are pending in the application. Applicant cancels claims 4, 7 and 10 without prejudice or disclaimer, amends claim 3 to include the limitations of canceled claim 4, amends claim 6 to include the limitations of canceled claim 7, and amends claim 9 to include the limitations of canceled claim 10. Applicant also amends claims 5, 8 and 11 to respectively depend from amended claims 3, 6 and 9, and amends claims 1 and 2 to clarify the nature of her invention. No new matter is added.

OBJECTED CLAIMS

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims 3, 6 and 9, but that each would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of its associated base claim. Applicant cancels claims 4, 7 and 10 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amends claims 3, 6 and 9 to respectively include the limitations of canceled claims 4, 7 and 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 3, 6 and 9 are allowable.

Applicant also amends claims 5, 8 and 11 to respectively depend from allowable claims 3, 6 and 9. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5, 8 and 11 are allowable for at least this reason, and requests that the cited objections to claims 5, 8 and 11 be withdrawn.

Claim 11 is objected to for making reciting an “information transmission apparatus” of claim 10” rather than an “information transmission system” as is recited in claim 9, from which claim 11 depends. Applicant amends claim 11 to recite “The image transmission system as claimed in claim 9”, and respectfully request that this objection to claim 11 be withdrawn .

REJECTION UNDER 35. U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 is rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner questions the relationship of the term “an image type” on line 16 to the term “a plurality of image types” on line 10. Applicant amends the term “an image type” to “one of the plurality of image types”, and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 1 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome this rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35. U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2, 3, 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,590,867 to Ash et al. Applicant amends claims 3, 6 and 9 to include the limitations of canceled claims 4, 7 and 10, and for the reasons described above, respectfully submits that amended claims 3, 6 and 9 are allowable. Applicant also amends claim 2 to clarify the nature of her invention, and respectfully traverse the rejection as to claim 2.

In amended independent claim 2, Applicant claims:

2. A method of transmitting image data through a network including a router to a plurality of terminals, said method comprising the steps of:

adding screening information representing a value corresponding to an image type to the image data;

transmitting the image data to the network;

receiving the image data from the network by the router;

selecting the image data including the screening information corresponding to a network environment of each transmission path by the router; and

transmitting the image data selected by the router to the plurality of terminals through said each transmission path.

Ash discloses an Internet protocol class of service routing technique in which, upon receipt of a call, a recipient router identifies available paths based on an identified class of service (see, e.g., abstract of Ash). The Examiner suggests that the technique of Ash discloses a method for selecting image data screening information (e.g., class of service) for determining a path selection (see, e.g., column 1, line 60 – column 2, line 16 of Ash). In sharp contrast to Applicant's invention as claimed in amended claim 2, Ash fails however to disclose that the screening information specifically corresponds to a value indicating an image type of the image data. Applicant's claimed invention eliminates the need of prior art systems to support separate encoding streams in an encoder for corresponding client terminals having different network environments for image data, as the screening information of the image data according to Applicant's invention can be correlated with network environments, transmission paths and client terminals.

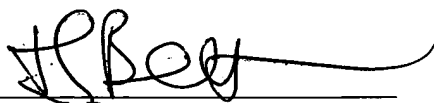
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 2 is not anticipated by Ash, and is therefore allowable.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 – 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10, consisting of independent claims 1, 2, 3, 6 and 9, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, she is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJ Bean', written over a horizontal line.

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